

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 EB-11 RSC-01 DRC-01 /032 W

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O 291723Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 40

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABIDJAN 7015

FOR AF/W LOUGHRAN FROM AMBASSADOR

EO11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EFIN, EGEN, IV

SUBJECT: LANG AFRIQUE SUGAR PROJECT

REF: A. ABIDJAN 6956; B. ABIDJAN 6670

1. DAVID MORSE TELEPHONED ME TODAY TO SAY THAT ISC-LANG MEMO HAS BEEN COMPLETED. WE AGREED IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HIM TO PASS COPY TO YOU FOR CLASSIFIED AIR POUCH.

2. MORSE SAID THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT LANG CAN COMPLETE SUGAR PROJECT HERE BUT IS IN SERIOUS NEED OF PAYMENTS FROM IVORY COAST IN ORDER TO DO SO. HE MAY NOT KNOW THAT LAST WEEK SODESUCRE PAID LANG INVOICES TOTALING \$585,000, OF WHICH \$400,000 WAS SENT TO U.S. TO PAY LANG NOTES, SALARIES AND VALVE REPAIRS, WHILE \$185,000 WILL BE USED TO PAY LANG AFRIQUE OVERDUE BILLS IN IVORY COAST AND WILL CARRY LOCAL OFFICE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 5. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, SODESUCRE STILL OWES LANG APPROXIMATELY \$555,000 AS PAYMENT FOR INVOICES PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED (REFTEL B).

3. HERMAN FRIETSCH OF ISC AND RAYMOND HOFKER OF LANG ARE APPARENTLY AVAILABLE TO COME HERE ANYTIME FOR DISCUSSION WITH ME AND THEN WITH MINISTERS DIAWARA AND BEDIE. MORSE WOULD NOT RPT NOT ACCOMPANY THEM AT THIS TIME. HE ASKED WHEN THESE TWO MINISTERS WILL BOTH BE IN ABIDJAN IN NEAR FUTURE. ON CHECKING WITH THEIR OFFICES I LEARNED FOLLOWING, WHICH SHOULD BE PASSED IMMEDIATELY TO DAVID MORSE:

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A. MINISTER OF PLAN DIAWARA RETURNS ABIDJAN FROM EUROPE ON
SEPTEMBER 7 AND PROBABLY DEPARTS AGAIN FOR WASHINGTON (IBRD/IMF) ON
SEPTEMBER 21.

B. MINISTER OF FINANCE BEDIE RETURNS ABIDJAN FROM UP COUNTRY
ON SEPTEMBER 2 AND DEPARTS FOR WASHINGTON (IBRD/IMF) ON SEPTEMBER 10.

C. IT WOULD THEREFORE APPEAR IDEAL FOR FRIETSCH AND HOFKER TO COME
TO ABIDJAN END OF NEXT WEEK FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH ME SEPTEMBER 6
AND WE WOULD SCHEDULE MEETINGS FOR THEM WITH BEDIE AND DIAWARA FOR
SEPTEMBER 9. IF THIS TIMING IS SATISFACTORY, PLEASE ADVISE AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE SO I CAN FIX APPOINTMENTS WITH THE TWO MINISTERS.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

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